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(POWERS)

WASHINGTON--FRANCIS GARE POWERS HAS DECLINED TODAY WITH MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AT A HIDEAWAY AS TOP-SECRET AS THE U2 SPY FLIGHT HE ONCE MADE OVER THE SOVIET UNION.

POWERS, 32, FREED BY THE RUSSIANS SATURDAY IN EXCHANGE FOR MASTER SOVIET SPY RUDOLPH ABEL, WAS FLOWN BACK TO THE U.S. FIRST FOR A REUNION WITH HIS WIFE AND PARENTS, AND THEN FOR INTENSIVE GOVERNMENT QUESTIONING.

HIS MOVEMENTS WERE CLOAKED WITH SECURITY EQUAL TO WARTIME RESTRICTIONS. THE ONLY OFFICIAL WORD WAS A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD RETURNED SUNDAY MORNING, WAS MEETING WITH HIS FAMILY AND APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION.

IT WAS LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT POWERS HAD LANDED AT THE DOVER, DEL., AIR FORCE BASE, AND IT WAS BELIEVED THAT HIS MEETING WITH HIS WIFE TOOK PLACE AT A HIDEAWAY WITHIN 150 MILES OF WASHINGTON.

AFTER THE FAMILY REUNION, POWERS FACES INTENSIVE QUESTIONING BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS -- AND POSSIBLY CONGRESS -- ON HOW HE WAS CAPTURED WHILE MAKING A HIGH ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSION OVER RUSSIA.

ONE BIG QUESTION IS WHETHER THE RUSSIANS ACTUALLY SHOT DOWN HIS PLANE AT 68,000 FEET WITH A ROCKET OR WHETHER HE WAS FORCED DOWN BY ENGINE TROUBLE.

THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE SAID THEY BELIEVED THEIR GROUP SHOULD QUESTION POWERS AFTER SECURITY AGENTS HAD COMPLETED INTERROGATING HIM.

SEN. HOWARD W. CANNON, D-MEB., SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ASK POWERS ABOUT THE INDOCTRINATION HE RECEIVED ON HOW TO ACT IF CAPTURED. CANNON SAID HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED IN POWERS' CONDUCT" AFTER THE U2 WAS DOWNED MAY1, 1960.

SENS. HARRY F. BYRD, D-VA., AND STROM THURMOND, D-S.C., ALSO SAID THEY THOUGHT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD QUESTION POWERS. BYRD SAID HE DID NOT THINK POWERS "GAVE THE RUSSIANS ANY INFORMATION HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO," BUT HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE PLANE WAS DOWNED.

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